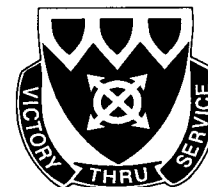




DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Detachment B, 510th Personnel Services Battalion
Heidelberg, Germany
APO AE 09102



16 September 2003

Office of the Commander

Dear Incoming Soldiers and Families:

Coming to the European Theater is an exciting time where the unknown future provides for some considerable stress. You are making a move that not only addresses your need to balance transportation and travel, but further implicates your need to learn at a great speed the culture in which you will be surrounded and your new duty position. Therefore sponsorship is an integral part to acclimating you, but, more importantly, your family to Germany. I take a personal interest in this and look to ensure that your transition is made as smooth as possible depending on the mission. This letter is the first step. From my family to yours, we extend to you a warm welcome.

Detachment B, 510th Personnel Services Battalion (PSB) is a responsible for providing personnel services to over 40,000 soldiers, family members, civilians, and retirees in the Heidelberg, Stuttgart, and Bad Aibling community. The Heidelberg Military Community is better known as the flagship community because of the senior officer and NCO population. It is nestled within the Neckar Valley approximately a 40-minute drive south of Frankfurt and is the headquarters for Detachment B while Squad B (Stuttgart) supervises and tends to the Bad Aibling office. Approximately a 2-hour drive south of Heidelberg, the Stuttgart Military Community proudly serves an eclectic collection of specialized forces. Bad Aibling is another 2-hour drive to the east on the east side of Munich. This current configuration comes as the MTOE was realigned in order to delegate the workload from Personnel Services Battalion to the brigade and battalion S-1 shops in accordance with the AG branches part in the Army Transformation.

The 510th PSB is one of the four Personnel Services Battalion located in Europe under the command and control of 1st Personnel Command. Our battalion is the most geographically dispersed of the four PSBs. Our battalion headquarters is located in Mannheim, Germany, with detachments in Mannheim, Heidelberg, Ansbach, Germany and Vicenza, Italy. Additionally, we have the 510th Postal Company that covers the same geographic footprint as the personnel detachments. Collectively, there are approximately 300 soldiers and civilians in the battalion.


Now the formalities are out of the way, let me give you a little information about the area in which you will be working and living. The headquarters portion of the detachment is located at the Heidelberg Shopping Center. We are fortunate in the aspect that the Main PX is adjacent to our office building. We also have a Burger King, Cinnabun, Anthony's Pizza, Taco Bell, and Popeye's Chicken in or near the same complex.

For those coffee addicts, there is a Bookmark bookstore, which sells cappuccino for a reasonable price. All within 2 to 3 minutes walking distance. Squad B is headed up out of Panzer Kaserne in Stuttgart. Within walking distance is a gym, dining facility, and a cozy restaurant called The Kantina. Our FAS Team in Bad Aibling has King Louie's offering a well-balanced meal in a Bavarian atmosphere.

Detachment B's day starts at 0630 for physical training for one hour, continues with workcall at 0900, and ends at 1800 after the office closes at 1700. The only exception to this schedule is Thursday which is dedicated to Sergeant's Time Training from 0700-1200, followed by some hip-pocket training or continued operational support to the community at 1300. We close business on Thursday afternoon at 1500 for Family time. This is time set aside for soldiers to take care of their personal business and spend some extra time with their family or friends. Detachment B is a multi-functional personnel detachment that provides personnel services support in the areas of SIDPERS (now eMILPO), Reassignment Processing, Enlisted/Officers Records, Semi-Centralized Promotions, Evaluations, and Passport/ID Cards. In addition, we conduct Pre-deployment processing for all units in the Heidelberg, Stuttgart, and Bad Aibling Community. And without question, yes we go to the field at least three times every fiscal year except during deployments. Our greatest challenges in the months to come is centers on Army Transformation while playing an integral part in force protection. This comes in the form of preparing/training the community S-1 shops for taking on the responsibility of processing and managing systems currently managed within the detachment while learning then assisting in the establishment of computer databases (i.e. DCIPS-LT, eMILPO, TOPMS II) designed to establish effective communication and management of records between DA PERSCOM and individual units and mass CAC Card issuance.

My Detachment Sergeant, SFC Bailey, will assign you a sponsor when your name comes down off of SGATE, the premiere method by which 1st PERSCOM ensures for the assignment of sponsors. Access this internet program via www.1perscom.army.mil. If there is ever any issue as to the quality of your sponsorship then contact SFC Bailey at DSN: 370-7757 or civilian 011-49-6221-57-7757 or henry.bailey@510th.1perscom.army.mil. If there continues to be any issue then contact me at DSN: 370-8000 or civilian 011-49-6221-57-8000 or robert.wilson@510th.1perscom.army.mil.

Again, welcome to the best personnel detachment in U.S Army Europe.



ROBERT B. WILSON
Captain, U.S. Army
Commanding